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# X-MEN

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THE NEWEST LEE-KIRBY SUPER-SPECTACULAR:

"BEWARE OF THE BLOB!"

24 PAGES OF THRILLS!

THE X-MEN BATTLE *The BLOB*, ONE OF THE *STRANGEST* SUPER-FOES OF ALL!

X-MEN! THE TEEN-AGE SUPER-HEROES WHO HAVE TAKEN AMERICA BY STORM!

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# X-MEN
THE MOST UNUSUAL TEEN-AGERS OF ALL TIME!

# "BEWARE OF THE BLOB!"

YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN A SUPER-VILLAIN LIKE THE BLOB!! WE PROMISE YOU THAT! OF ALL THE GREAT MARVEL EPICS, THIS MAY BE THE GREATEST!

GOOD WORK, CYCLOPS! YOUR REACTION TIME HAS SPEEDED UP THREE PERCENT SINCE LAST WEEK! NOT ONE SAWDUST-FILLED PRACTICE BAG HAS GOTTEN PAST YOUR POWER BEAM!

C'MON, BOBBY BOY! SEE HOW MANY YOU CAN CATCH WITHOUT A BOUNCE!

YOU MAY STOP LOADING THE EJECTOR NOW, HANK!

WHO NEEDS TO *CATCH* 'EM, PAL? I'LL JUST *FREEZE* THEM ON THE FLY, LIKE *THIS!*

*WRITTEN BY:* **STAN LEE**
*ILLUSTRATED BY:* **JACK KIRBY**
*INKED BY:* **PAUL REINMAN**
*LETTERED BY:* **ART SIMEK**

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OUR BOOK-LENGTH THRILLER BEGINS BEHIND LOCKED DOORS IN THE GYMNASIUM OF **PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS!**

SCOTT, YOU ARE PROBABLY THE MOST POWERFUL OF ALL MY X-MEN! YET, YOU ALWAYS SEEM SO GRIM-- SO UNSMILING! NOT LIKE THE OTHERS! THIS DISTRESSES ME!

SORRY, SIR! IT'S JUST THAT I WORRY ABOUT THE AWESOME POWER IN MY EYES! IF I SHOULD EVER FORGET TO SHIELD THEM, **ANYTHING** MIGHT HAPPEN! SOMETIMES I WISH I WERE **NOT** CYCLOPS!

**SCOTT SUMMERS!** DON'T EVER LET ME HEAR YOU SAY THAT AGAIN!

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT OL' GLOOMY-FACE, BUT **I'M** GLAD I'M THE **ICEMAN!** YES SIREE!

LOOK **OUT!** YOU **KNOW** I'M ALLER-GIC TO SAWDUST!

LITTLE MAN, DID ANYONE EVER TELL YOU THAT YOU ARE A FEATHER-BRAINED FATHEAD? IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE FACT THAT I ABHOR VIOLENCE...

SORRY, BEAST, YOU'RE WASTIN' YOUR TIME! FLATTERY WILL GET YOU NOWHERE!

THAT MUSCLE-BOUND BOOK-WORM IS TOO **NICE** TO YOU, SHORT STUFF! THIS IS WHAT **I'D** DO IF YOU TRIED TO BUG **ME!**

**HEY!** WATCH IT! I JUST SHINED MY LITTLE BLACK BOOTIES!

THOSE WHACKY WINGS OF YOURS DON'T WORRY **ME,** ANGEL!

NOT WHEN I CAN FREEZE 'EM AGAINST THE WALL AS EASY AS PIE! **ESKIMO** PIE, THAT IS!

YOU REPULSIVE RUNT! WHEN I GET THROUGH WITH YOU, THERE WON'T BE ENOUGH OF YOU LEFT TO FILL UP ONE RUSTY ICE CUBE TRAY!

YOU TALK MIGHTY BIG, WARREN WORTHINGTON, THE THIRD... BUT I NOTICE YOU CAN'T THAW BOBBY'S ICE TRAP WITHOUT A LITTLE HELP!

STAY **OUT** OF THIS, CYCLOPS! IT'S BETWEEN THAT FROZEN J. D. AND **ME!**

BUT SUDDENLY, THE HIGH-SPIRITED TEEN-AGERS' HORSE PLAY IS INTERRUPTED BY A PIERCING TELEPATHIC COMMAND FROM PROFESSOR X.!

FREE TIME IS **OVER!** RESUME YOUR PLACES! THE TRAINING PERIOD WILL CONTINUE!

IT'S **MARVEL GIRL'S** TURN NOW! ARE YOU READY, JEAN?

A MOMENT LATER...

IT IS TIME FOR YOUR **DEXTERITY** TEST, JEAN! HOLD THAT BLOCK OF WOOD MOTIONLESS IN THE AIR! GOOD! GOOD!

AND NOW, SEE HOW QUICKLY YOU CAN FIT IT THROUGH THE VARIOUS FORMS ON THE PRACTICE RACK! **GO!**

ISN'T THIS RATHER **SIMPLE** FOR ONE WITH MY ABILITY, PROFESSOR?

YOU KNOW THE RULES, GIRL! **NO TALKING** DURING TESTING PERIOD!

OH--SORRY, SIR!

I **KNOW** THE EXTENT OF YOUR TELEKINESIS POWER AS WELL AS YOU, JEAN! BUT IT IS NOT YOUR **POWER** WE ARE TESTING TODAY...

...IT IS HOW SKILLFULLY AND RAPIDLY YOU CAN **USE** IT! **SEVEN SECONDS!** GOOD! A MARKED IMPROVEMENT!

DOES THAT MEAN I'M READY FOR **BIGGER** TASKS NOW, SIR? **PROFESSOR**--WHAT'S WRONG?

**SILENCE!** I DETECT THE PRESENCE OF **ANOTHER MUTANT!** CLEAR YOUR MINDS OF ALL THOUGHTS! THERE MUST BE NO INTERFERENCE AS I TRY TO MENTALLY PINPOINT THE LOCATION!

THEN, THERE IN THE SILENT CHAMBER, THE MOST GIFTED OF ALL X-MEN SENDS HIS UNCANNY THOUGHT PROBE OUT OVER THE COUNTRYSIDE, BLANKETING THE AREA WITH INVISIBLE TELEPATHIC EYES!

AND, MINUTES LATER...

DO WE GO GET HIM, SIR? WHERE **IS** HE?

I HOPE IT'S A **FEMALE!** ONE JUST LIKE MARVEL GIRL! MMMM **BOY!**

SLOW DOWN, ICEMAN! THE PROFESSOR HASN'T SAID IT **IS** A "HE" YET!

INTO YOUR STREET CLOTHES-- **ALL** OF YOU! THERE IS **WORK** TO BE DONE!

AND SO...

WHY THE **RUSH,** HANK? HE DIDN'T SAY IT WAS AN EMERGENCY!

ON THE CONTRARY, W.W.! FIRST ONE TO REPORT ESCORTS **JEAN!** AND **THAT** MEANS HANK McCOY!

THE HECK IT **DOES!** THIS IS MARVEL GIRL'S LUCKY DAY! **I'M** TEAMIN' UP WITH HER THIS TIME! **GANG-WAY,** SLOWPOKES!

COME **BACK** HERE, YOU FROST-BITTEN FLEA! SHE DESERVES A **MAN,** NOT A REFUGEE FROM A **DIAPER** FACTORY!

THEY ALL WANT TO TEAM UP WITH JEAN GREY, AS USUAL!

OF ALL THE GIRLS I'VE EVER MET, SHE IS THE ONE I'D GIVE **MY** HEART TO-- BUT I DON'T DARE! NOT WHILE I POSSESS MY DREAD POWER!

TOO BAD YOUR **SPEED** DOESN'T MATCH YOUR ENTHUSIASM, BOBBY BOY!

WHERE'D **YOU** COME FROM?!

BUT, UPON REACHING THE CHAMBER, THE X-MEN SUDDENLY STOP IN THEIR TRACKS, RESPECTFULLY, AS THEY SEE...

BE CAREFUL, MY DEAR! I CANNOT TELL WHAT POWERS THIS MUTANT MAY POSSESS! HE MAY BE A **DANGER** TO YOU!

DON'T WORRY, SIR! REMEMBER HOW WELL YOU'VE TRAINED US!

"DON'T WORRY"! AS THOUGH I I COULD **HELP** WORRYING ABOUT THE ONE I LOVE! BUT I CAN NEVER **TELL** HER! I HAVE NO RIGHT! NOT WHILE I'M THE LEADER OF THE X-MEN, AND CONFINED TO THIS WHEEL-CHAIR!

SCOTT, DON'T LOOK SO GRIM! COME ON, YOU AND I WILL SEARCH FOR THE MUTANT TOGETHER!

**WHAT?** YOU WANNA GO WITH OL' PRUNE FACE INSTEAD OF LOVEABLE **ME?**

RELAX, YOU SECOND-RATERS! IT'S **MY** TURN NOW! THE **ANGEL** WILL ACCOMPANY HER IN OUR SEARCH FOR THE MUTANT!

THAT ARROGANT BRAGGART! ONE OF THESE DAYS HE'LL GO TOO FAR!

**WARREN WORTHINGTON THE THIRD!!** MUST YOU BE SUCH A SHOW-OFF?

HEY, HANK-- ARE WE GONNA LET THAT HIGH-FLYIN' HEEL GET **AWAY** WITH THAT?

WE DON'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY ALTERNATIVE, MY FROSTY FRIEND!

YOU CONCEITED CLOWN! I--I HOPE YOU GET YOUR PIN-FEATHERS CAUGHT IN A WRINGER!

I REALLY DON'T THINK YOU'RE WISE TO ANTAGONIZE THE OTHER X-MEN THE WAY YOU DO, WARREN!

DON'T LOSE ANY SLEEP OVER IT, BEAUTIFUL! REMEMBER, I'M THE **ANGEL!** THOSE EARTH-BOUND CHARACTERS CAN'T BOTHER **ME!** THEY'RE NOT IN MY CLASS!

SOME NERVE! HIM STEALIN' JEAN RIGHT OUT FROM UNDER OUR NOSES!

LET'S **FACE** IT, LITTLE FRIENDS! THE ANGEL **IS** THE GLAMOR BOY OF OUR SELECT LITTLE GROUP!

TRUE ENOUGH, HANK! BUT ONE DAY HE'LL REALIZE THIS IS NO **GAME** WE'RE PLAYING, BUT A GRIM, LIFE-AND-DEATH STRUGGLE!

LATER, GUIDED MENTALLY BY PROFESSOR X, THE OTHER THREE X-MEN SEARCH THE CITY FOR THE NEW MUTANT WHOSE PRESENCE THEIR LEADER HAS DETECTED...

**GOSH!** LOOK AT THAT FELLA BURNING A PAPER JUST BY HOLDING HIS HAND OVER IT! HE MUST HAVE AN X-POWER, LIKE US!

WHAT **LUCK!** I FOUND THE NEW MUTANT FIRST CRACK OUT OF THE BOX!

NO, BOBBY, HE IS NOT THE ONE WE SEEK! KEEP SEARCHING!

AW, RATS! HE'S USING A MAGNIFYING GLASS TO BURN THE PAPER! I SHOULD HAVE **GUESSED!**

MEANTIME, HANK McCOY SEEMS TO MAKE A DISCOVERY...

THAT MAN IS STANDING ON AIR! I'VE **FOUND** THE MUTANT! HE MUST HAVE THE ABILITY TO DEFY GRAVITY!

KEEPING VIGIL TILL THE SUN SETS, THE DECEPTIVELY GENTLE "BEAST" CAUTIOUSLY WALKS UP THE SIDE OF THE TALL BUILDING...

GOOD THING IT'S TWILIGHT! NOBODY'S APT TO NOTICE ME IN THE GLOOM!



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BUT, UPON REACHING THE FOURTH FLOOR, HANK FINDS...

FALSE ALARM! HE'S MERELY SETTING UP AN ADVERTISING DISPLAY, AND STANDING UPON THE TRANSPARENT GLASS SHIELD WHICH WILL PROTECT THE SIGN!

AND, WHAT OF SCOTT SUMMERS, THE X-MAN KNOWN AS **CYCLOPS?** AT A NEARBY CARNIVAL...

CAREFUL, LAD! THE MENTAL EMANATIONS ARE STRONGER NOW! THE MUTANT IS VERY NEAR YOU!

THAT FELLOW-- HITTING THE TARGETS WITHOUT LOOKING! PERHAPS **HE** IS THE ONE WITH AN X-POWER --AN **EXTRA** POWER!

**NO!** IT'S JUST A FRAUD--TO LURE THE PUBLIC!

I'LL TEACH HIM A LITTLE LESSON WHILE I'M HERE--AND DRAIN OFF SOME SURPLUS ENERGY AT THE SAME TIME!

**HOLY COW!** THE JOINT'S **HAUNTED!**

AT THAT MOMENT, CYCLOPS HEARS THE SHRILL SOUND OF A BARKER'S RAUCUS PITCH...

ALL RIGHT, FOLKS, HERE'S OUR **MAIN ATTRACTION!** WHAT YOU'VE BEEN **WAITIN'** FOR!

THE ONE, THE ONLY, THE UNBELIEVABLE MARVEL OF THE AGE! FOR ONLY A QUARTER, THE FOURTH PART OF A DOLLAR, YOU CAN STEP INSIDE AND MEET--**THE BLOB!**

YOU WON'T BELIEVE YOUR EYES WHEN YOU SEE THE FEATS THE **BLOB** CAN PERFORM! SO HURRY, HURRY, HURRY-- THE SHOW STARTS IN FIVE MINUTES! DON'T PUSH--DON'T CROWD--THERE'S ROOM FOR ALL!!

THE **BLOB!** PERHAPS-- **HE'S** THE ONE--??

DON'T BUY A TICKET IF YOU'RE SQUEAMISH! STRONG MEN HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO **FAINT** WHEN THE **BLOB** PERFORMS! SO HURRY, HURRY, HURRY--

**YES!** IT IS **HE!** THE ONE CALLED THE **BLOB!**

I'VE **FOUND** HIM!

AND THEN, THE EXHIBITION BEGINS...

I WANT A HALF-DOZEN VOLUNTEERS --BIG, STRONG STRAPPING MEN!

YOU'LL WIN ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS IF YOU CAN MAKE THE BLOB **MOVE!**

ONE HUNDRED CLAMS!! **WOW!**

JUST TO MOVE FATSO THERE? IT'LL BE A CINCH!

BUT AFTER TEN EXHAUSTING MINUTES...

IT'S **IMPOSSIBLE!** WE CAN'T **BUDGE** HIM!

NO **WONDER** THEY OFFERED A HUNDRED BUCKS!! NATURE BOY HERE MUST BE **NAILED** TO THE FLOOR!!

SO **HE'S** THE MUTANT! HE DOESN'T SEEM SO GREAT TO ME! JUST A BIG, HEAVY GUY!

AND NOW FOR THE **SECOND** PART OF OUR DEMONSTRATION! THIS IS NOT FOR THE SQUEAMISH!! THE **BLOB** WILL STOP A RIFLE LOAD OF BULLETS WITH HIS BODY!! READY, TEX?

YES SUH! AH'M READY!

POW POW POW POW

SECONDS LATER, AFTER THE SMOKE HAS CLEARED!

FAKE! FAKE! HE WAS PROBABLY SHOOTIN' **BLANKS!**

WE WANT OUR MONEY BACK!

**WAIT!!** L-LOOK AT **THAT!!**

HE REALLY **DID** STOP THE SHELLS!!

THEY COULDN'T PENETRATE HIS SKIN!

**WOW!** HE'S TOSSIN' THE SHELLS AWAY JUST BY EXPANDING HIS CHEST!!

NEVER SAW ANYTHING **LIKE** IT! THE BLOB HAS A BODY LIKE SILLY PUTTY!! HE CAN DO **ANYTHING!**

LATER, AFTER THE EXHIBITION...

NO **WONDER** PROFESSOR X WANTS TO GET THE BLOB BEFORE THE EVIL MUTANTS CAN CONTACT HIM! HE'S FAR MORE POWERFUL THAN I SUSPECTED!!

THERE'S HIS WAGON NOW! I WONDER IF HE REALIZES HE'S A MUTANT??

MY NAME'S SUMMERS! MIND IF I HAVE A FEW WORDS WITH YOU?

IF IT'S A **TOUCH,** RUBE, YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME!

IT'S NO TOUCH, FELLA! HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF--THE **X-MEN?**

THOSE JERKY JUVENILES IN THE CORNY COSTUMES?? SURE, I HEARD OF 'EM! SO WHAT?

THEY WANT TO **SEE** YOU! I WAS SENT TO BRING YOU TO THEIR HEADQUARTERS! AND THE X-MEN DON'T TAKE "NO" FOR AN ANSWER!

I SHOULDN'T LOSE MY TEMPER, BUT THIS OBNOXIOUS, OVERSTUFFED APE SURE RUBS ME THE WRONG WAY!

LOOK, STRING-BEAN! TAKE THOSE SUN-GLASSES OF YOURS AND GET LOST BEFORE I **THROW** YA CLEAR BACK TO WHERE YOU CAME FROM! GET THE PICTURE?

PAY NO ATTENTION TO MY BOORISH FRIEND, BLOB! HE COULDN'T CONVINCE A DROWNING MAN TO TAKE A LIFE PRESERVER! BUT THIS LITTLE LADY AND MYSELF WOULD BE HAPPY TO DRIVE YOU TO THE X-MEN!

OUR CAR IS WAITING OUTSIDE...

WELL, WELL! **NOW** YOU'RE TALKIN' MY LANGUAGE! I'LL GO IF ME AND THIS CUTE TOMATO CAN SIT IN THE RUMBLE SEAT! HEH HEH!

HOLD ON THERE! LET GO OF THE LADY'S ARM!

LET **ME** HANDLE THIS!

IT'S TIME YOU LEARNED SOME **MANNERS,** TUBBY--AND HERE'S YOUR FIRST LESSON!

**HEY!** WHAT THE--?!

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO ROUGH WITH HIM, SCOTT! I'M SURE HE DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM!

THAT'S RIGHT, DOLL! I'M JUST A BIG, FUN-LOVIN' KID, THAT'S ALL!

AND IT'S LUCKY FOR YOUR TWO SKINNY FRIENDS THAT I AINT MAD, SEE?

BECAUSE THERE'S ***NOTHIN'*** THAT CAN HURT THE BLOB!! DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR??

AND NOW THAT I MET RED RIDING HOOD HERE, I'VE CHANGED MY MIND! LET'S GO VISIT THE X-MEN!

AND SO, THE BLOB IS BROUGHT TO PROFESSOR X, AND CONSENTS TO HAVE THE EXTENT OF HIS STRANGE POWER TESTED...

I UNDERSTAND YOU CANNOT BE MOVED WHEN YOU PLACE YOURSELF ON ONE SPOT! LET US SEE HOW ***TRUE*** THAT IS!

START CRANKIN', MISTER! YOU'LL FIND OUT!

SNAP!

EXTRAORDINARY! YOURS IS A MOST UNUSUAL POWER! THE VERY MOLECULES OF YOUR FLESH REACT TO YOUR MENTAL COMMANDS AND SEEM TO PERFORM ALMOST ANY FEAT YOU DESIRE!

IN PLAIN ENGLISH I'M PRETTY TERRIFIC, HUH? HECK, I COULDA TOLD YOU THAT ALL THE ***TIME!***

THIS CHUBBY LITTLE SHRINKING VIOLET NEEDS TO BE TAKEN DOWN A PEG OR TWO, PROFESSOR! MAY I HAVE YOUR PERMISSION?

BETTER STAY **OUT** OF THIS, SONNY BOY! I COULD HANDLE A DOZEN LIKE YOU BEFORE BREAKFAST-- IN MY **SLEEP!**

PERMISSION GRANTED, ICEMAN! BUT BE CAREFUL! THE **BLOB** IS MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU SUSPECT!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT **ME,** SIR!

FIRST, WE'LL MAKE SURE HE **STAYS** A WHILE, SO I CAN REALLY ENJOY THE FUN AND GAMES I'VE GOT PLANNED!

YOU EXPECT THAT LITTLE CHUNK OF ICE TO HOLD **ME,** SHORTY??

ALL I'VE GOTTA DO IS WIGGLE MY BIG TOE-- LIKE **THIS!**

N-NOBODY'S **EVER** DONE THAT, BEFORE!

BUT I'M **SOMEBODY,** JUNIOR! I'M THE **BLOB!**

I HAVE SEEN ENOUGH! I AM CONVINCED YOU ARE A TRUE MUTANT! AND, AS SUCH, I EXTEND AN OFFER TO YOU-- TO JOIN THE **X-MEN!**

THANKS FOR **NOTHIN',** BALDY! I'M STRONGER THAN **ALL** OF YOU PUT TOGETHER! WHO **NEEDS** YOU? I'M NOT GONNA LET ANYONE BOSS THE **BLOB** AROUND-- NO SIR!

THIS IS **UNHEARD OF!** NO ONE HAS EVER RE-FUSED US BEFORE! YOU CANNOT BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE NOW THAT YOU KNOW OUR IDENTI-TIES-- IT IS OUT OF THE QUESTION!

STOP HIM, MY X-MEN! I MUST DRIVE THIS MEMORY FROM HIS MIND! TAKE HIM TO MY LAB!

STAY **BACK,** YOU OVERGROWN MOSQUITO! NOBODY'S TAKIN' THE **BLOB** ANY-WHERE!

**PROFESSOR X** GIVES THE ORDERS AROUND HERE, MOONFACE! AND DON'T-- **YEOW!** MY **HANDS!!**

YOU'RE GOING TO **REGRET** THAT, BLOB!

I **WARNED** YA, PRETTY BOY! IF **BULLETS** CAN'T HURT ME, WHAT DO YOU EXPECT THOSE PINK LITTLE FISTS OF YOURS TO DO??!

THAT'S WHAT **YOU** THINK, DEADHEAD! RAISE THAT VISOR OF YOURS ANOTHER INCH AND THIS LITTLE SPARROW OF YOURS WILL NEVER FLY AGAIN!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT **ME,** CYCLOPS! LET HIM **HAVE** IT! HE'S TOO **DANGEROUS** TO TAKE CHANCES WITH!

I CAN'T! I CAN'T RISK ANGEL'S LIFE! IT'S UP TO THE **OTHERS!**

THEN, MOVING WITH STARTLING SPEED FOR ONE SO MASSIVE, THE BLOB MAKES THE FIRST MOVE, AS ALL FURY SEEMS TO BREAK LOOSE IN THE GREAT CHAMBER...

RATS! I MISSED 'IM!

HERE! YOU TWO DESERVE EACH OTHER!!

FALL BACK, MY X-MEN! REGROUP YOURSELVES! PLAN YOUR ATTACK CAREFULLY! YOU ARE BEING TOO CARELESS! YOU MUST WORK AS A TEAM!

I'VE GOT TO MOVE THE PROFESSOR AWAY! IF THE BLOB ATTACKS HIM, HE'S TOO VULNERABLE!!

USING HER ASTOUNDING POWER OF TELEKENISES, MARVEL GIRL HURLS THE PROFESSOR'S WHEEL CHAIR BACK OUT OF RANGE BEFORE THE BLOB CAN REACH HIM!

ONCE I GET MY HANDS ON YOUR LEADER, I'LL--HEY! WHAT'S GOIN' ON??!

JUST IN TIME! NOW, WITH THE PROFESSOR OUT OF HARM'S WAY, WE CAN CONCENTRATE ON THE BLOB AGAIN!

BUT THEIR OPPONENT FINALLY DECIDES TO ESCAPE WHILE HE CAN...

OH NO YOU DON'T!

THE DOOR'S HAUNTED! IT SHUT BY ITSELF!

OUT OF THE WAY, JEAN! LET ME TACKLE HIM!

SLAM!

THOUGH THEY CALL YOU THE BEAST, YOUR STRENGTH CAN'T NEARLY MATCH MINE! NOTHING CAN HURT ME!

FAR BE IT FROM ME TO DOUBT YOUR VERACITY, BIG MAN, BUT I PREFER TO LEARN THINGS FOR MYSELF!

WHAM!

SATISFIED, MONKEY MAN?

LET'S JUST SAY YOU PROVED YOUR POINT, SON!

I'LL LOSE MYSELF DOWN HERE AND BE BACK AT THE CARNIVAL BEFORE THEY CAN FINISH PICKING UP THE PIECES!

SWIFTLY, THE UNCANNY BLOB MAKES HIS WAY AMONG THE VAST NETWORK OF UNDERGROUND CABLES AND CIRCUITS WHICH FORM THE HEART AND NERVE CENTER OF EVERY MAJOR METROPOLIS...

MEANWHILE, BACK AT X-MEN HEADQUARTERS...

NO BONES BROKEN, PROFESSOR! GOSH-- WHAT'S WRONG, SIR??

MY FIRST MISTAKE! MY FIRST REALLY SERIOUS MISTAKE! I FOOLISHLY TOOK IT FOR GRANTED HE WOULD JOIN US...

I HAD YOU BRING HIM HERE! HE LEARNED WHERE WE ARE LOCATED, WHO WE ARE! IF HE TALKS, THE SECRET I HAVE SWORN TO DEDICATE MY LIFE TO WILL BE A SECRET NO MORE! HE MUST NOT TALK!!

CAN'T YOU DRIVE THE MEMORY OF WHAT HE HAS LEARNED FROM HIS MIND, SIR?

YES! BUT NOT BY LONG DISTANCE! HE MUST BE NEAR ME!! HE MUST BE BROUGHT HERE AGAIN!!

AND, REACHING THE CARNIVAL, THE BLOB'S THOUGHTS ARE TURNING IN THE SAME DIRECTION!

I KNOW THE IDENTITY OF THE X-MEN! THAT MEANS I'M DANGEROUS TO THEM! THEY'LL NEVER REST TILL THEY'VE RECAPTURED ME!

BUT I'LL OUT-SMART THEM! I'LL ATTACK THEM FIRST! I KNOW WHERE THEY ARE -- IT WON'T BE HARD!

CIRCUS

THE BLOB! WHERE IN SAM HILL HAVE YOU BEEN, YOU BRAINLESS LUMMOX?!!

SHUT YOUR MOUTH! AND STAND UP WHEN YOU SEE ME! THINGS ARE GONNA BE MIGHTY DIFFERENT AROUND HERE NOW!

FOR YEARS I THOUGHT I WAS JUST AN EXTRA-STRONG FREAK! BUT I FOUND OUT WHAT I REALLY AM! I'M A MUTANT! UNDERSTAND? I'M ONE OF HOMO-SUPERIOR! AND THAT MEANS I'LL RUN THIS SHOW FROM NOW ON!! ANY OBJECTIONS??

N-NO!!

GET EVERYBODY TOGETHER!! ALL THE FREAKS, ACROBATS, PERFORMERS--EVERYBODY!! I WANT THEM HERE IN FIVE MINUTES! NOW HOP TO IT, YOU PUNY HOMO SAPIEN! MOVE WHEN I GIVE AN ORDER!!

AND SO...

FROM NOW ON YOU ALL TAKE ORDERS FROM ME! AND THOSE WHO DON'T WILL WISH THEY HAD! I'M GONNA MAKE YOU ALL FAMOUS!!

YOU'RE GONNA HELP ME BEAT THE X-MEN! I KNOW WHERE THEY'RE HIDDEN! WE'RE ATTACKING THEM!! YOU'VE GOT YOUR WEAPONS, AND YOU'VE GOT ME! WE CAN'T LOSE!

HEY, LOOK!! THERE'S ONE OF 'EM NOW! HE MUST BE SPYIN' ON US!! WHAT DO WE DO???

SHOOT HIM DOWN, YOU FOOL! HURRY!

BUT SHOOTING THE HIGH-FLYING ANGEL IS EASIER SAID THAN DONE! AND SO...

GOOD THING THE PROF HAD ME SPEND ALL THOSE HOURS PRACTICING MANEUVERABILITY ...DODGING GUNFIRE! BETTER REPORT BACK TO HIM, ON THE DOUBLE!

MINUTES LATER, BACK AT PROFESSOR X'S PRIVATE LAB...

GOOD WORK, ANGEL! IT'S AS I FEARED! HE'S PREPARING TO STRIKE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

THAT'S WHY I'M RUSHING TO COMPLETE THIS ELECTRONIC MASS INFLUENCER! IT WILL INTENSIFY MY OWN THOUGHT WAVES SO I CAN DRIVE ALL MEMORY OUT OF THE MINDS OF AN ENTIRE CROWD!



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FOR THE PROBLEM IS NOW MORE DIFFICULT THAN EVER! WHEN THE BLOB ATTACKS WITH HIS CARNIVAL HENCHMEN, THEY WILL **ALL** KNOW OUR WHEREABOUTS--AND THEY MUST **ALL** HAVE THAT KNOWLEDGE ERASED FROM THEIR BRAINS!

ALERT THE OTHERS, ANGEL! EVEN THOUGH IT IS THEIR STUDY HOUR, HAVE THEM DON THEIR UNIFORMS.... READY FOR ACTION! THAT IS ALL!

YES SIR!

UP AND AT 'EM, HANK! THE PROF WANTS EVERYONE IN UNIFORM AND RARIN' TO GO!

ANGEL, ALTHOUGH YOUR COLLOQUIALISMS ARE EXTREMELY COLORFUL, THEY ARE COMPLETELY UNNECESSARY!

I WILL BE FULLY GARBED AND AT THE READY BEFORE YOU SHUT MY DOOR!

ADVANCED CALCULUS

INTO YOUR FIGHTING DUDS, JUNIOR! PROFESSOR X'S ORDERS!

**SAY!** WHAT HAVE YOU **GOT** BACK THERE! YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE **STUDYING!**

I **WAS!** I WAS, EH, STUDYING A PROBLEM IN, EH, KEEPING FOOD REFRIGERATED!

**SURE!** I WOULDN'T DOUBT YOU! NOW GET DRESSED!

**HEY!** WHAT'S GOIN' **ON** HERE??

SLAM!

**SUFFERIN' SNOWBALLS!** IT'S AN **INVASION!!** IT LOOKS LIKE THE WHOLE BLAMED **CARNIVAL** IS OUTSIDE!

AND BOBBY DRAKE IS ABOUT TO LEARN THAT THERE IS MORE TRUTH THAN FICTION TO HIS STARTLED EXCLAMATION!

THAT KID AT THE WINDOW **SEES** US, BLOB!

IT DOESN'T **MATTER** NOW! IT'S TOO LATE FOR THEM TO STOP US!

**ATTACK!** THIS IS THE END OF THE **X-MEN!**

WE ***MUST*** TAKE OVER THEIR HEADQUARTERS! I WANT ALL THEIR SECRETS! ALL THEIR SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES--THEIR WEAPONS--MUST BE ***MINE!!***

NO NEED TO USE A BATTERING RAM, BOYS! WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST RING THE BELL??!

OOOF!

DIDN'T ANYONE EVER TELL YOU THAT IT'S IN VERY BAD TASTE TO COME BARGING IN THIS WAY??

OH, HAVING TROUBLE STOPPING? LET ME HELP YOU! I'LL JUST RAISE MY VISOR A BIT...

WHUP!

HIT 'EM FROM ***ALL*** SIDES! THEY CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE AT ONCE! USE YOUR GRAPPLING HOOKS!

WE'LL GET INSIDE AND OPEN THE DOORS FOR THE OTHERS, AND THEN--

***SHUDDUP! LOOK!*** WHO IN BLAZES IS ***THAT??!***

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF! I AM, TO MY SORROW, CALLED THE ***BEAST!***

ALTHOUGH I ADMIT IT'S A MOST UNWARRANTED COGNOMEN FOR ONE AS SCHOLARLY, AS REFINED AS I FANCY MYSELF TO BE!

THE GUY'S A ***NUT!***

ALAS, I HAVE BEEN CALLED ***MANY*** SUCH UNFLATTERING THINGS!

THINGS WHICH CAN INJURE THE EGO AND THE ID OF ONE AS SENSITIVE AND HIGH-STRUNG AS I!

BUT I SEE MY SOLILOQUY BORES YOU! SO, LET US PUT AN END TO THIS FARCE! OOPS! FORGIVE MY CLUMSINESS, WON'T YOU?

KEEP FIRING!! SHOW HIM HE CAN'T PUSH ***MY*** MEN AROUND!!

OH, HERE WE GO 'ROUND THE MULBERRY BUSH, THE MULBERRY BUSH, THE MULBERRY BUSH--!

AND ***NOW,*** BLOB, I'VE BEEN AWAITING THIS MOMENT WITH GREAT ANTICIPATION!!

I WOULDN'T EVEN WASTE MY TIME WITH YOU! RELEASE THE ***GORILLA!*** WE'LL LET ***ONE*** BEAST FINISH OFF ANOTHER!

WHILE I MUST ADMIRE YOUR FLAIR FOR THE DRAMATIC, BLOB, I DEFINITELY RESENT YOUR UNFRIENDLY ATTITUDE!---

SAY! YOU REMIND ME OF MY LAST BLIND DATE!

LOOK SHARP, ANGEL! SOME REFUGEE FROM **BONANZA** IS TRYING TO LASSO YOU!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT **ME,** PARTNER! I JUST DROPPED BY TO LEND **YOU** A HAND! BUT YOU SEEM TO BE DOING FINE ON YOUR OWN!

**THIS'LL** CLIP YOUR WINGS, FLYBOY!! HEY--NOT SO **FAST!**

SPOKEN LIKE A TRUE SON OF THE WEST, MY FRIEND! WEST BROOKLYN, THAT IS!

DIDN'T EXPECT THE FLYING ZAMBOOBAS TO TACKLE YOU THIS WAY, DID YOU??

GOOD WORK, SVENZALDO! NOW LET US BRING HIM DOWN TO EARTH!!

OOOF!

THEY GOT THE ANGEL! WE'VE GOT TO **HELP** HIM!

NO TIME FOR THAT **NOW,** LAUGHING BOY! LOOK WHAT'S HEADIN' **TOWARDS** US!

**CYCLOPS!! DO** SOMETHING! IT'S TOO BIG FOR **ME** TO HANDLE!

**HAH!** MY FOUR-FOOTED FRIEND IS TOO BIG FOR **ANYONE** TO HANDLE--INCLUDING THE FAMOUS **CYCLOPS** WHOM I SHALL NOW PIN HELPLESSLY AGAINST THAT TREE!

DON'T JUST **STAND** THERE, POKER FACE!! **RUN!**

**RUN?? CYCLOPS** DOESN'T RUN, LITTLE MAN!

AT LEAST, NOT WHILE I AM STILL ABLE TO RAISE MY POWER BEAM VISOR--LIKE **THIS!!**

BUT THE AMOUNT OF ENERGY REQUIRED FOR SUCH A HIGH-INTENSITY POWER BLAST TEMPORARILY WEAKENS THE POWERFUL CYCLOPS, AND...

NOW'S OUR CHANCE! GRAB HIM!

WITH HIM OUT OF THE WAY, THE OTHERS WILL BE EASY!

BROTHER, ARE YOU LIVIN' IN A FOOLS' PARADISE!!

I'LL JUST TOSS OFF A FEW ICE TORPEDOES AND--HEY! WHAT THE--?!?!

THIS'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU, SMALL FRY!

THE BLOB WAS RIGHT! THESE INSULATED SUITS LET US GET NEAR THIS KID WITHOUT FREEZIN'!

I'VE GOT TO HELP ICEMAN!

BUT MARVEL GIRL SOON FINDS IT IS SHE WHO NEEDS HELP!

SURROUND HER! GOOD! NOW SEIZE HER! SHE CAN'T STOP ALL OF YOU AT ONCE!

MEANWHILE, A GRIM PROFESSOR X WATCHES FROM HIS LAB WINDOW...

MY X-MEN ARE FIGHTING VALIANTLY! BUT, ALTHOUGH THEY POSSESS ALL THE POWER THEY NEED, THEY STILL HAVE NOT SUFFICIENT SKILL TO USE IT PROPERLY!

IF THEY SHOULD FAIL, IT WILL BE UP TO ME, ALONE, TO STOP THE BLOB AND HIS MEN!

MY LEGS ARE OF NO USE TO ME! I HAVE ONLY THE POWER OF MY BRAIN... AND THE HOPE OF COMPLETING THIS INTENSIFIER IN TIME!

WHILE, DOWN BELOW...

WE'VE GOT ICEMAN AND THE GIRL! WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS?

YOU CREEPS! IF I EVER BREAK AWAY, I'LL--

NOT A CHANCE, SONNY! YOU'VE HAD IT!

C'MON, YOU GUYS! TIE UP THE KID AND HELP US! THIS GAL FIGHTS LIKE AN ARMY!

CAN'T GIVE UP! IF WE'RE BEATEN, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE PROFESSOR?

EVERYTHING'S GOING FINE! I KNEW THEY COULDN'T STAND UP TO ALL MY MEN -- UNDER THE LEADER-SHIP OF THE BLOB!

HEY, BOSS! WE HAVEN'T WON YET!! LOOKS LIKE CYCLOPS GOT HIS STRENGTH BACK! YOU MAY HAVE TO HELP PERSONALLY!

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! IF THAT GUY'S EYES ARE IN WORKIN' ORDER AGAIN, I'M NOT HANGIN' AROUND TILL HE TURNS 'EM ON ME!

I HEAR YOU TALKIN', PAL!

SO THERE YOU ARE!! THE RENEGADE MUTANT WHO THINKS HE CAN BEAT THE X-MEN!

THINKS?? SONNY, YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG! I KNOW I CAN BEAT A BUNCH OF COSTUMED TEEN-AGE MISFITS LIKE YOU! THAT POWER BEAM OF YOURS CAN'T BUDGE ME!

MAYBE NOT, BUT IF I BLAST THE GROUND YOU'RE STANDING ON, IT'S SURE GOING TO UPSET YOU, TOO!

NOW! WHILE HE'S NOT LOOKING! THIS IS OUR CHANCE!

WE DID IT! HE'S HELP-LESS NOW!

YEAH! WITH THIS TIGHT SACK OVER HIM, HE CAN'T MOVE HIS VISOR TO FREE THAT BEAM OF HIS!

HERE'S THE ANGEL! WE GOT HIM, TOO!

TIE THEM UP-- HURRY! REMEMBER, THE BEAST IS STILL FREE!

COME ON, YOU GUYS! GET THOSE ROPES AROUND HIM! I CAN'T HOLD HIS WINGS LIKE THIS ALL DAY!

WHAT DO YOU THINK WE'RE TRYIN' TO DO?? HE DOESN'T KNOW WHEN TO QUIT!

WHAT DO THEY FEED YOU X-MEN, ANYWAY?? AINT YOU GOT BRAINS ENOUGH TO KNOW WHEN YOU'RE LICKED?

IF I COULD JUST FREE MY WINGS, I'D SHOW YOU WHO'S LICKED!

MEANWHILE, THROUGH SHEER AGILITY AND MUSCULAR DEXTERITY, THE BEAST FINALLY DEFEATS HIS INHUMAN OPPONENT!!

HAPPY LANDINGS, MY ANTHRO-POID AMIGO! I'VE GOT WORK TO DO NOW!

ONE SIDE, YOU SLOW-MOVING BUNGLERS! IT'S THE BLOB I'M AFTER!

HERE HE COMES!

BRACE YOUR-SELVES!

HE CAN'T STOP NOW! HE'S MOVING TOO FAST!

HOLD FAST! WE GOT HIM!

THROW HIM DOWN ***HERE,*** TO ME! ***I'LL*** HANDLE HIM NOW!

***NOTHING*** CAN BREAK THE GRIP OF THE BLOB!

***THERE!*** YOU'RE THE ***LAST*** OF 'EM! I'VE BEATEN ALL THE X-MEN! ONLY HELPLESS PROFESSOR X REMAINS!

MINUTES LATER...

IF THE FOUR OF YOU STAY OUT OF TROUBLE NOW, I MAY LET YOU LIVE--FOR A WHILE LONGER!

AND DON'T EXPECT ANY HELP FROM THE ***ICEMAN***-- HE'S GOT HIS ***OWN*** PROBLEMS RIGHT NOW!

MAKE ONE FALSE MOVE, JUNIOR, AND THAT CIRCLE OF FLAME WILL FALL, MELTING YOU BUT ***GOOD!***

NOW ***FOLLOW ME!*** ONCE WE DISPOSE OF PROFESSOR X, ALL THE SECRETS--ALL THE POWERS OF THE X-MEN WILL BE ***MINE!*** THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE WILL BOW DOWN TO--THE ***BLOB!***

SILENTLY, COMPLETELY MOTIONLESS, THE MAN KNOWN AS PROFESSOR X SITS AND WAITS FOR THE ATTACK WITH GRIM RESOLVE... AN ATTACK HE HAS BEEN FOLLOWING BY MEANS OF HIS AMAZING MENTAL PROWESS!

MY X-MEN HAVE BEEN STOPPED --BUT NOT FOR LONG! THERE IS STILL HOPE!

***MARVEL GIRL,*** I AM SENDING MY THOUGHT TO YOU! YOU ARE NOT AS HELPLESS AS YOU THINK! DO EXACTLY AS I SAY...

YOU HAVE THE TELEKINETIC POWER TO MENTALLY MOVE AN OBJECT! USE THAT POWER TO REMOVE YOUR **BLIND-FOLD!**

WELL DONE, JEAN! AND NOW, LOOK AROUND YOU, QUICKLY! EVERY SECOND COUNTS! WE CAN **STILL** DEFEAT THE BLOB!

KEEP LOOKING! I CAN "SEE" WHAT YOU SEE BY PROBING YOUR MIND! **AHH! THAT** IS WHAT WE NEED! SEND YOUR TELEKINETIC POWER THROUGH THE WAGON WINDOW--QUICKLY!

SHARPO
WORLD'S GREATEST
KNIFE THROWER

**PERFECT!** AND NOW, THE REST IS UP TO **YOU!**

I WILL NOT FAIL YOU, SIR!

A SCANT FEW SECONDS LATER...

**MARVEL GIRL!** HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO FREE YOURSELF??

WE HAVE **PROFESSOR X** TO THANK! BUT I'LL EXPLAIN AFTER I FREE YOU ALL!

FINALLY...

THAT'S **HIM!** THE LEADER OF THE X-MEN! HE'S **HELPLESS! GET 'IM!**

BUT HOW CAN THE X-MEN'S **LEADER** BE HELPLESS??

DON'T QUESTION THE **BLOB!** JUST **OBEY** ME!

BUT, BEFORE THE BLOB OR HIS MEN CAN MAKE ANOTHER MOVE...

WHAT **HAPPENED??**

A SOLID WALL OF **ICE** FELL IN FRONT OF US!

WE CAN'T GET THROUGH!

ONLY THE **ICEMAN** COULD HAVE DONE THIS!! BUT HE'S OUR **PRISONER!**

DON'T **BET** ON IT, PAL!

AND THEN, A HUGE SECTION OF CANVAS SEEMS TO FLOAT THROUGH THE AIR, WRAPPING ITSELF AROUND THE STUNNED AND STARTLED ATTACKERS!!

WE CAN'T GET **OUT!** IT'S FOLDING ITSELF AROUND US!!

**HELP!!** THE X-MEN AINT JUST **MUTANTS** --THEY'RE **MAGICIANS!!**

SURPRISED, BROTHER BLOB? DON'T BE! YOU HAVEN'T SEEN **ANYTHING** YET!

I SAVED **YOU** FOR LAST! THE BOYS ASKED ME TO!

I BEAT YOU ALL **ONCE,** AND I'LL DO IT **AGAIN!** BUT **THIS** TIME I WON'T BE SO MERCIFUL!

**BRAVO!** SPOKEN LIKE A TRUE LITTLE BLOB!

**STAY BACK!** HIS GRIP IS **UNBREAKABLE** ONCE HE GRABS YOU! BUT I'LL SEE TO IT THAT HE NEVER GRABS ANY OF US AGAIN!

**WHOOOM!**

I WAS A **FOOL** TO ALLOW THOSE BUMBLING HOMO SAPIENS TO FIGHT YOU! WHEN I CLIMB OUT OF HERE, THE BLOB **PERSONALLY** WILL DEFEAT YOU ALL!

SORRY, CHUBBINS! WE'RE NOT **GIVING** YOU A SECOND CHANCE!

**QUICK,** STRETCHO! WE'VE GOT TO GET **OUT** OF HERE! LET'S **BLAST** OUR WAY THROUGH!

OKAY, X-MEN! THIS IS THE WRAP-UP! LET'S GET THOSE POP-GUNS AWAY FROM OUR FRANTIC FRIENDS!

EASY ON THOSE WALLS, BEAST! YOU'RE GIVING ME A **HEADACHE!**

YOU TRAVEL **YOUR** WAY, ANGEL--AND I'LL TRAVEL **MINE!** I'M JUST A NON-CONFORMIST AT HEART!



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USING HIS POWERFUL WINGS AS POUNDING WEAPONS, THE ANGEL KNOCKS THE GUNS FROM THE HANDS OF HIS ENEMIES, AS THE BEAST CAUSES THEM TO RETREAT IN PANIC!

BUT, THEIR RETREAT IS SHORT-LIVED, FOR ONE LOW-INTENSITY POWER BLAST BY CYCLOPS FORCES THEM TO HUDDLE HELPLESSLY IN A CORNER!

NO MORE! NO MORE! WE GIVE UP!

AND, AT THAT MOMENT, THE GRIM-VISAGED PROFESSOR X PRESSES THE "OPERATE" STUD ON HIS COMPLETED INTENSIFIER RAY--THE RAY WHICH INCREASES THE POWER OF HIS MUTANT BRAIN, TURNING IT INTO AN AWESOME WEAPON!

*THIS* IS THE MOMENT! WHEN THEIR RESISTANCE IS AT ITS LOWEST EBB!

MY THOUGHTS ARE *YOUR* THOUGHTS, BLOB! MY WILL IS *YOUR* WILL! YOU AND YOUR MEN HAVE NEVER HEARD OF THE X-MEN! YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN OUR HEADQUARTERS! YOU ARE ALL AS YOU WERE BEFORE WE FOUND YOU! MY WILL IS *YOURS!* MY WILL IS YOURS!

AND, WITHIN A MATTER OF SECONDS...

WHAT'S GOIN' *ON?* WHAT ARE WE *DOING* HERE?

I DON'T KNOW! BUT WE'D BETTER RETURN TO THE CARNIVAL BEFORE WE GET SACKED!

LOOKS LIKE *YOU* WIN AGAIN, SIR! YOU ENDED THE MENACE OF THE BLOB BY SHEER BRAIN-POWER ALONE!

NO, THE VICTORY IS *NOT* MINE ALONE! FOR WITHOUT YOUR COURAGE AND SKILL IN HOLDING OFF THE ENEMY UNTIL I COULD COMPLETE MY INTENSIFIER, WE WOULD HAVE BEEN ANNIHILATED! WE FOUGHT THE FIGHT *TOGETHER*, MY X-MEN, AND WE TRIUMPHED TOGETHER!

AND, SO ENDS THE TALE OF THE MUTANT WHO MIGHT HAVE ACHIEVED GREATNESS AS AN X-MAN, HAD HIS HONOR BEEN A MATCH FOR HIS POWER!

STEP RIGHT UP, FOLKS, AND SEE THE *BLOB!* ONLY TWENTY-FIVE CENTS! HURRY, HURRY, HURRY!

WHAT A LIFE! ALWAYS ON DISPLAY FOR THE RUBES! OH WELL, IT'S BETTER THAN STARVIN'!

BUT THE BRAIN OF A MUTANT IS AN UNPREDICTABLE THING! PROFESSOR X KNOWS THAT SOME DAY IN THE FUTURE, THE BLOB'S MEMORY MAY RETURN...

BUT, WHEN IT DOES... THE *X-MEN* WILL BE READY! NOW, UNTIL NEXT ISSUE, FROM *HOMO SUPERIOR* TO *HOMO SAPIENS* --FAREWELL!

THE END

# MINUTEMEN



# Blunt

Brian Azzarello